

2 April 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Mr. Fred Mesmer, of the Senate Immigration Subcommittee staff, on the subject of Refugee and Escapee Legislation

1. On this date, I met with Mr. Mesmer, of the Senate Immigration Subcommittee staff, to discuss the status of proposed legislation on the subject of refugees and escapees, specifically, Senator Hart's bill S. 3043 and Representative Walter's bill H. R. 10079.
2. With respect to Senator Hart's bill, Mesmer advised that the bill had just been referred to the Immigration Subcommittee since it had been allowed to lie on the table so that additional Senators might join as co-sponsors. There are now approximately 25 Senators on the bill. He said it was too soon to predict what action the Subcommittee would take on this proposed legislation. He did say, however, that the bill had been referred to the Immigration Subcommittee since the Judiciary Committee of which Senator Hart is Chairman (the Subcommittee on Refugees and Escapees) was not a legislative committee. He does not believe the Subcommittee will take any action on the bill until they obtain a reaction from Representative Walter (Chairman of the House Immigration Subcommittee) whom Mesmer referred to as "Mr. Immigration."
3. With respect to H. R. 10079, Mesmer pointed out that the bill had been amended in the House so as to repeal the last sentence of section 2a of P.L. 86-648 (this sentence provides that the Attorney General shall discontinue paroling refugee-escapees pursuant to section 1 of the Act on 1 July 1962.). However, when this bill was referred to the Senate, Senator Fulbright raised a point of order with respect to the Committee to whom the bill should be referred. Fulbright indicated on 14 March that he desired to talk to the leadership on this point. Action on referral of the bill has, therefore, been tabled and Mesmer has no indication as to when this might be resolved.



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